



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Monday, June 24, 2002

Crow Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

A dead crow found in the Town of Perinton has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), according to Monroe County health officials. Monroe County becomes the fifth county in the state to detect WNV in birds this year.

“We fully anticipated a bird to test positive for the West Nile virus this season. It serves as an important reminder for residents to be cautious over the next couple of months,” said Health Director Dr. Andrew Doniger. “The public has been very helpful in reporting dead crows to us, likely resulting in our detecting this illness much earlier than usual,” Doniger added.

WNV protective recommendations:

- Minimize outdoor activity between dusk and dawn
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to cover exposed skin
- Use insect repellent containing DEET; be certain to follow manufacturer’s instructions and wash off once inside for the evening
- Drain standing water on property to reduce mosquito breeding areas

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), very few mosquitoes – less than 1% - carry WNV. If bitten by an infected mosquito, less than 1% of people become seriously ill; most people will have mild flu-like symptoms or exhibit no symptoms at all.

People over the age of 50 and those with chronic illness are at highest-risk for WNV. Although there is no vaccine or specific treatment, if a person develops severe symptoms, such as high fever and headache, they should consult a doctor.

Residents may call **234-9600** for WNV information or to report a dead crow.

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For more information, contact:

Communications and Special Events at 529-0619

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